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American National Standard

Product Safety Signs and Labels

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Contents

Page

Foreword vii

1 Introduction 1

2 Scope and Purpose 1

2.1 Scope 1

2.2 Purpose 1

2.2.1 Existing American National Standards 1

3 Application and exceptions 1

3.1 Application 1

3.1.1 ISO-formatted safety signs 1

3.2 Exceptions 2

4 Definitions 2

5 Use of signal words 4

5.1 Hazard classification 4

5.2 Signal word selection 4

5.3 Multiple hazard signs 4

6 Sign or label format 4

6.1 Panels 4

6.2 Panel arrangement 4

6.2.1 Panel format 4

6.2.2 Panel placement 4

6.2.3 Panel shape 5

6.3 Safety alert symbol 5

6.4 Distinctiveness 5

6.5 Word message 5

6.5.1 Multiple messages 5

6.5.2 Longer word messages and space limitations 5

7 Safety sign and label colors 5
7.1 Standard colors 5
7.2 Signal word panels 5
7.2.1 DANGER 5
7.2.2 WARNING 5
7.2.3 CAUTION 5
7.2.4 NOTICE 5
7.2.5 SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS or similar words 5
7.2.6 Safety alert symbol 6
7.3 Message panel 6
7.4 Safety symbol panel 6
7.5 Border 6
7.6 Color options 6
7.6.1 Other colors 6
7.6.2 When special circumstances limit the use of sign colors 6
7.6.3 When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors 6
8 Letter style and size 6
8.1 Letter style 6
8.1.1 Signal words 6
8.1.2 Message panel lettering 6
8.2 Letter size 6
8.2.1 Lettering 6
8.2.2 Determination of minimum safe viewing distance 7
8.2.3 Signal word letter height 7
9 Sign and label placement 7
9.1 Location 7
9.1.1 Safety instruction signs 7
9.3 Protection 7

10 Expected life and maintenance 7
10.1 Expected life 7
10.2 Product user instructions 7
10.2.1 Maintenance 7
10.2.2 Replacement 7
10.2.3 Installation procedure 7
11 Safety symbols 8
11.1 Conveyed message 8
12 References 8
12.1 General 8
12.2 American National Standards 8
12.3 Other standards 8

Figures

1 The Safety Alert Symbol 3
2 Examples of Color Description 9
3 Three-Panel Sign in Vertical Format 10
4 Two-Panel Sign in Vertical Format 10
5 Three-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format 10
6 Two-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format 10
7 Two-Panel Sign in Shortened Signal Word Panel Format 10
8 Two-Panel Sign in Side-by-Side Format 11
9 Three-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format with Symbol Panel on Right 11
10 Three-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format with Message Panel and Symbol Panel Separated by Line 11
11 Three-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format with Message Panel and Symbol Panel Separated by White Space 11
12 Two-Panel Sign in Horizontal Format with Word Panel and Symbol Panel 11
13 Hazard Alerting Sign Incorporating a Safety Instruction Panel 12
B1 Examples of Correct Safety Alert Symbol and Sign Word Placement 15
B2 Examples of Incorrect Safety Alert Symbols and Signal Word Placement 15
B3 Word Message with Hazard Ttype and Consequence First 16
B4 Word Message with Hazard Avoidance First 16

B5 Example of Headline Style Message 16
B6 Example of Non-headline Style Message 16
B7 Examples of Active Voice Sentences 17
B8 Examples of Passive Voice Sentences 17
B9 Examples of Sentences without Prepositional Phrases 17
B10 Examples of Sentences with Prepositional Phrases 17
B11 Message in Outline Format 18
B12 Message in Outline-with- Bullets Format 18
B13 Message in Continuous Format 18
B14 Message with Left-Aligned Ragged Text 18
B15 Message with Centered Text 18
B16 Message with Justified Text 18
B17 Text with Mixed Case Lettering 19
B18 Text with Selective Use of Upper Case Lettering 19
B19 Text with All Upper Case Lettering 19
B8 Vertical Bilingual Format 22
B9 Horizontal Multilingual Format with Symbol Panel in Middle 22
B10 Horizontal Multilingual Format with Symbol Panel on Left Side 22

Tables

B1 Examples of Word Message Letter Heights and Minimum Safe Viewing Distances 21
D1 Translations of Signal Words ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Annexes

A Providing Information About Safety Messages in Collateral Materials and Product Safety Signs and Labels 13
B Principles and Guidelines for the Design of Product Safety Signs and Labels 15
C The Use of ISO Safety Signs for Products 25
D Translations of Signal Words 26
E Risk Estimation and Signal Word Selection 27
F Informative References 32

Foreword

In 1979, the ANSI Z53 Committee on Safety Colors was combined with the ANSI Z35 Committee on Safety Signs to form the ANSI Z535 Committee on Safety Signs and Colors. This committee has the following scope:

> To develop standards for the design, application, and use of signs, colors, and symbols intended to identify and warn against specific hazards and for other accident prevention purposes.

While the basic mission and fundamental purpose of the ANSI Z535 Committee is to develop, refine, and promote a single, uniform graphic system used for communicating safety and accident prevention information, the Z535 Committee recognizes that this information can also be effectively communicated using other graphic systems.

The Z535 Committee created subcommittees to update the Z53 and Z35 standards and to write new standards. To date, the following six standards comprise the ANSI Z535 series:

ANSI Z535.1 *Safety Colors* [ANSI Z53.1-1979 was updated and combined into this standard in 1991]

ANSI Z535.2 *Environmental and Facility Safety Signs* [ANSI Z35.1-1972 and Z35.4-1972 were updated and combined into this standard in 1991]

ANSI Z535.3 *Criteria for Safety Symbols* [new in 1991]

ANSI Z535.4 *Product Safety Signs and Labels* [new in 1991]

ANSI Z535.5 *Safety Tags and Barricade Tapes (for Temporary Hazards)* [ANSI Z35.2-1974 was updated and combined into this standard in 1991]

ANSI Z535.6 *Product Safety Information in Product Manuals, Instructions, and Other Collateral Materials* [new in 2006]

Together, these six standards contain the information needed to specify formats, colors, and symbols for safety signs used in environmental and facility applications, in product and product literature applications, and in temporary safety tag and barricade tape applications.

Published separately is the ANSI Z535 Safety Color Chart. This chart gives the user a sample of each of the safety colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, grey, white, and black. It also describes each color's ink formulation and closest PANTONE® color.

This ANSI Z535.4 standard was prepared by Subcommittee Z535.4 on Product Safety Signs and Labels. The foreword and all of the annexes are considered to be informative and are not an official part of this standard. In the vocabulary of writing standards, the word “informative” is meant to convey that the information presented is for informational purposes only and is not considered to be mandatory in nature. The body of this standard is “normative,” meaning that this information is considered to be mandatory.

This standard provides guidelines for the design of safety signs and labels for application to products. The core guidelines contained in this standard were initially published in the first edition of this standard. This first edition became available in 1992. In the 1998 revision, Annex A was added to explain the use of safety label components in collateral material used with the product, and Annex B was added to provide helpful principles and guidelines for the design of product safety signs.

In the 2002 revision, Annex C was added to describe the use of ISO formats for product safety signs and labels and Annex D was added to provide translations for signal words.

In the 2007 revision, Annex E was added to provide assistance in selecting a signal word and Annex F was created to separate the normative references from the informative references.

The 2011 edition of this standard was revised to better harmonize with the ANSI Z535.2, Z535.5, and Z535.6 standards. A new type of product safety sign, the "safety instruction sign", was added to the standard joining the existing types of signs, hazard alerting signs, and safety notice signs which were also more clearly defined and named in this edition. In tandem with these changes, the definitions for

"accident," "harm," and "incident" were refined to more clearly delineate a separation between physical injury and other safety-related issues (e.g., property damage).

Due to differences in color printing technologies and color monitors, the appearance of colors in this standard may not be accurate. See the ANSI Z535-2011 Safety Color Chart for the purpose of viewing accurate colors.

Proposals for improvement of this standard are welcome. Information concerning submittal of proposals to the Z535 Committee for consideration can be found at the back of this standard.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee Z535 on Safety Signs and Colors. Committee approval of this standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the Z535 Committee had the following members:

Gary M. Bell, Chair
Richard Olesen, Vice Chair
Greg Winchester, Secretary

Organization Represented:	*Name of Representative:*
American Society of Safety Engineers	J. Paul Frantz Thomas F. Bresnahan (Alt.) Howard A. Elwell (Alt.)
American Welding Society	August F. Manz
Applied Materials	Edward Karl Carl Wong (Alt.)
Applied Safety and Ergonomics, Inc.	Steven Hall Stephen Young (Alt.)
Association for Manufacturing Technology	David Felinski
Association of Equipment Manufacturers	Richard A. Dressler Daniel Taylor (Alt.)
Browning Arms Company	Larry D. Nelson
Caterpillar, Inc.	Charles Crowell Mark Steffen (Alt.)
Clarion Safety Systems, LLC	Geoffrey Peckham
Dorris and Associates International, LLC	Nathan T. Dorris Alan Dorris (Alt.) Kelly Burke (Alt.)
Eagle Crusher Co.	Ryan Parsell
Edison Electric Institute	David Young

Hale Color Consultants, Inc.	William N. Hale
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society	Michael Kalsher Michael S. Wogalter (Alt.)
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International Safety Equipment Association	Janice Comer Bradley Christine Fargo (Alt.)
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International Staple, Nail, and Tool Association	John W. Kurtz
L. Dale Baker & Associates	L. Dale Baker
Lab Safety Supply, Inc.	Jim Versweyveld
Law Office of Mathew Kundinger	Mathew Kundinger
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Travelers Insurance Company	Karen Stetler
Underwriters Laboratories	Richard Olesen
Whirlpool Corporation	Deborah Sherman Donald Grob (Alt.)
World Kitchen, LLC	Celeste Levindoski

At the time it prepared this edition of ANSI Z535.4 for Z535 Committee vote, Subcommittee Z535.4 on Product Safety Signs and Labels had the following members:

Steve Hall, Chair
Paul Orr, Secretary

Lewis Barbe	World Safety Organization
Gary Bell	Sauder Woodworking Company
Thomas F. Bresnahan	American Society of Safety Engineers
Steven Chybowski	Rockwell Automation
Robert J. Cunitz	System Safety Society
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Geoffrey Peckham	Clarion Safety Systems, LLC
Deborah Sherman	Whirlpool Corporation
Karen Stetler	Travelers Insurance Company
Michael Weber	Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Carl Wong	Applied Materials

Product Safety Signs and Labels

1 Introduction

This standard sets forth a system for presenting safety and accident prevention information through product safety signs and labels. It consolidates a number of previous graphic approaches into a common design direction selected to present product hazard information in an orderly and visually consistent manner.

The basic mission and fundamental purpose of the ANSI Z535 Committee is to develop, refine, and promote a single, uniform graphic system used for presenting safety and accident prevention information. Such an approach assists standard users in the efficient development of product safety signs and labels, and assists sign viewers in recognizing signs as being related to safety.

This standard sets forth a hazard communication system that is designed to complement the ANSI Z535.2-2011, ANSI Z535.5-2011, and ANSI Z535.6-2011 standards. While these standards are similar in many respects, they each address different physical and visual requirements. As a result, the Accredited Standards Committee Z535 has recognized and affirmed the need for these separate standards.

2 Scope and Purpose

2.1 Scope

This standard sets forth requirements for the design, application, use, and placement of safety signs and labels on a wide variety of products.

2.2 Purpose

The purposes of this standard are to:

a. establish a uniform and consistent visual layout for safety signs and labels applied to a wide variety of products,

b. minimize the proliferation of designs for product safety signs and labels, and

c. establish a national uniform system for signs that communicate safety information.

2.2.1 Existing American National Standards

There are a number of existing American National Standards that are recognized for particular industries or specific uses. Compliance with such a standard may be considered for the particular industry or use. It is not the intent of this ANSI Z535.4 standard to replace existing standards or regulations that are uniquely applicable to a specific industry or use. It is the intent to encourage adoption of this standard in subsequent revisions of other standards and regulations.

3 Application and exceptions

3.1 Application

This standard provides guidance for manufacturers, employers, distributors, and others who have a desire to communicate safety information via product safety signs or labels.

3.1.1 ISO-formatted safety signs

Product safety information may be conveyed by ISO formatted safety labels in compliance with ISO 3864-2 (see Annex C).